

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 IO-04 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-04 AGR-05 SWF-01

TRSE-00 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-01 NIC-01 CU-02 CIEP-01

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P R 291050Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8148

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 14541

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT -- OCTOBER 29, 1974

GENERAL

1. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET ARRIVED BACK IN PHNOM PENH TO TAKE A BREAK FROM UN LOBBYING AND CONCENTRATE ON DOMESTIC ISSUES. SIHANOUK LEFT PEKING FOR ALGIERS TO HELP CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALGERIAN REVOLUTION. FANK CHEWED UP A HEAVY ENEMY PUSH AGAINST ONE WING OF ITS FORCES FIGHTING ON THE BASSAC RIVER NEAR PHNOM PENH AND SUCCESSFULLY MET ATTACKS ON SVAY RIENG. KOMPONG CHHNANG'S FORCES HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO REOPEN ROUTE 5 TO BATTAMBANG. THE US HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ANOTHER 100,000 TONS OF RICE TO CAMBODIA UNDER TITLE I OF PL-480. IN A WELL PUBLICIZED SIGNING CEREMONY, WITH THE GKR ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, AMBASSADOR DEAN POINTED TO THIS AGREEMENT AS AN INDICATION BOTH OF THE CONTINUING DEGREE OF US SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA AND OF THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THERE WILL BE NO RICE SHORTAGE IN THE COMING MONTHS. HE REITERATED PRESIDENT FORDS'S EXPRESSION OF US DESIRE FOR AN EARLY COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE
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CAMBODIAN PROBLEM.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET RETURNED FROM NEW YORK OCTOBER 28 AND TOLD AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE UN HAS TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO FINDING A MEANS TO RESTORE PEACE TO THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. HE ASSERTED

THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF UN MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY PEACE INITIATIVE AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE UN AS FAR AS THE PROBLEM OF PEACE IN CAMBODIA IS CONCERNED.

3. NEARLY 300 WORKERS AT CHIP TONG'S (RUBBER SANDALS, PAINT, DYESTUFFS, TEXTILES) TUOL KAU SUBURB FACTORY STRUCK OCTOBER 23 DEMANDING HIGHER SALARIES. THE STRIKERS UNFURLED A NUMBER OF MARXIST-FLAVORED ANTI-MANAGEMENT BANNERS, BUT ENTERED INTO GOVERNMENT-MEDIATED TALKS. THE FACTORY MANAGEMENT AGREED TO BOOST SALARIES ON A SLIDING SCALE BEGINNING AT 8,000 RIELS (\$1.00 EQUALS 1,475 RIELS) PER MONTH FOR THE LOWEST PAID WORKERS. MANAGEMENT AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES ARE SCHEDULED TO SIGN THE NEW WAGE ACCORD OCTOBER 29. COMMENT: ALL INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN HIT BY RISING COSTS AND SHORTAGES OF RAW MATERIALS. SOME HAVE LAID WORKERS OFF IN AN EFFORT TO SQUARE RISING SALARIES WITH REVENUE.

GRUNK/FUNK

4. SIHANOUK AND MONIQUE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK AND POLITBURO MEMBER THIOUNN PRASITH IN TOW LEFT PEKING FOR ALGIERS OCTOBER 28 TO ATTEND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALGERIAN ARMED REVOLUTION. COMMENT: PRASITH HAS APPARENTLY TAKEN OVER IENG SARY'S JOB AS SIHANOUK'S WATCHDOG ON BEHALF OF THE KHMER COMMUNISTS.

5. THE DRV AND GRUNK DISPLAYED FRATERNAL AFFECTION IN PEKING WHERE NORTH VIETNAMESE VICE-PREMIER LE THANH NGHI MET WITH SIHANOUK AND HIS SON NORODOM CHAKROPONG OCTOBER 27. NGHI CONVEYED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO
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SIHANOUK FROM THE DRV PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER. PENN NOUTH RECEIVED NGHI LATER IN THE DAY. NORTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE AND NATIONAL RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORTED RESOTIATION OF GRUNK'S UN RIGHTS. THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY POINTED TO US "AGGRESSION" AS THE CAUSE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CAMBODIA WHILE THE RADIO COMMENTARY SCORED THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AS A TRICK AIMED AT PREVENTING DISCUSSION OF KHMER REPRESENTATION. DRV RADIO ATTACKED THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE FRIENDLY DRAFT, NOTING THAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN LACKEYS "ABETTED" US WARFARE IN INDOCHINA.

6. THE GKR DECISION NOT TO SUBMIT CREDENTIALS ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE

SAPRKED CRIES OF VICTORY FROM CLANDESTINE RADIO.
GRUNK/FUNK'S PRESS AGENCY CLAIMED THE GKR DELEGATION
WAS "SIMPLY DISCARDED FROM THE LIST OF QUALIFIED
PARTICIPANTS AND... NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK OR VOTE..."
THE BROADCAST SAW THE "DEFEAT" AS ANOTHER STEP IN
THE INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION OF THE GKR BUT INJECTED
A CAUTIONARY NOTE BY OBSERVING THAT THE US AND OTHERS
MAY MANEUVER TO PROLONG THE LAST DAYS OF THE GKR.

7. CLANDESTINE RADIO ALSO REPORTED REMARKS CHAU SENG,
FUNK POLITBURO CENTRAL COMMITTEEMAN AND SIHANOUK'S
SPECIAL ENVOY, MADE TO DELEGATES FROM NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES ON THE EVE OF THE UNESCO CONFERENCE. SENG
URGED THAT GRUNK BE GIVEN ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO
THE CAMBODIAN SEAT AT THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES AND THANKED THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS FOR
THEIR SUPPORT.

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
SMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2202
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 14541

8. HOUSEWIVES, YOUTHS, INTELLECTUALS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
RECEIVED SEPARATE APPEALS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION,
"PATRIOTIC INTELLECTUALS" AND FROM THE DEMOCRATIC
YOUTH LEAGUE AND THE CAMBODIAN STUDENTS' GENERAL ASSOCIATION.
ALL THREE APPEALS HARPED ON THE GKR'S PARLOUS ECONOMIC STATE
AND URGED THEIR TARGET AUDIENCES TO UNITE AND RISE UP OR AT LEAST
FLEE TO LIBERATED AREAS. THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE PAT-
RIOTIC INTELLECTUALS MADE MUCH OF US CONGRESSIONAL RELUCTANCE
TO FUND AID TO CAMBODIA AND OF US ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES,
WHICH THEY SAW AS JEOPARDIZING US SUPPORT TO THE GKR, A THEME CON-
SIDERABLY ELABORATED UPON IN OTHER CLANDESTINE RADIO
PROGRAMMING. THE YOUGH LEAGUE AND STUDENT
ASSOCIATION JOINT APPEAL PROMISED AN INTENSIFIED

OFFENSIVE IN THE DRY SEASON WITH ULTIMATE LIBERATION
OF PHNOM PENH AND ALL CAMBODIA.

ECONOMIC

9. ON OCTOBER 25, NOTES ON THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO
THE CURRENT PL 480 TITLE I AGREEMENT WERE EXCHANGED
WITH THE GKR. THIS ACTION PROVIDES \$42.2 MILLION FOR
AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 TONS OF RICE, 10,000 TONS OF
WHEAT AND 4 MILLION POUNDS OF COTTON YARN. TOTAL
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RICE UNDER THE AGREEMENT IS NOW 200,000 M/T. AT THE
SAME CEREMONY A NOTE FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$1,120
THOUSAND FOR THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND WAS DELIVERED,
RAISING THE TOTAL US CONTRIBUTION FOR THIS CALANDAR
YEAR TO \$10.9 MILLION.

10. ON OCTOBER 27 PHNOM PENH RICE STOCKS WERE
27,838, M/T OR A 36-DAY SUPPLY BASED ON THE DAILY
QUOTA OF 770 M/T. AVERAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE WEEK
WAS 695 M/T, WHILE THE MONTHLY AVERAGE TO DATE IS
713.7 M/T. NO RICE ARRIVED DURING THIS PERIOD.
ROUTE 5 FROM BATTAMBANG REMAINS INTERDICTED.

11. PRICES WERE GENERALLY MIXED ON PHNOM PENH RETAIL
MARKETS FOR THE WEEK ENDING MONDAY, OCTOBER 28.
BATTAMBANG RICE ROSE 8 PERCENT; PORK ROSE 4 PERCENT.
VEGETABLE PRICES VARIED APPRECIABLY DUR-
ING THE WEEK, DUE MAINLY TO SEASONAL FACTORS. PRICES
FOR MOST OTHER GOODS HELD STEADY OR SHOWED MODEST
CHANGES. THE BLACK MARKET BUYING RATE FOR THE DOLLAR
INCREASED FROM 1,600 TO 1,650 RIELS PER DOLLAR DURING
THE WEEK; THE FREE MARKET (OFFICIAL) BUYING RATE WAS
UNCHANGED AT 1,475 RIELS PER DOLLAR.

MILITARY

12. IN THE EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 28, THE ENEMY
LAUNCHED HEAVY GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST THE NORTHERN
AND WESTERN DEFENSIVE PERIMETERS OF SVAY RIENG. PRE-
LIMINARY REPORTS HAVE 17 ENEMY KILLED AND NO FRIENDLY
OUTPOSTS LOST. EIGHT 107 MM ROCKETS ALSO FELL ON THE
CITY OCTOBER 28 WITH NO CASUALTIES.

13. SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT FORCES IN
THE UPPER BASSAC RIVER OPERATION SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED
AGAINST A STRONG ENEMY EFFORT TO CUT THE EASTERN TASK
FORCE'S MAIN SUPPLY LINE AT THE SOPHI BRIDGE. THESE
HEAVY ENEMY ATTACKS LASTED OVER A SEVEN-DAY PERIOD BUT

FANK TROOPS, AIDED BY WELL-EXECUTED KAF AIRSTRIKES,
THWARTED THIS DETERMINED ENEMY EFFORT TO PENETRATE
FRIENDLY LINES. ENEMY ATTACKS HAVE DECLINED
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AND GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE BEGINNING TO SWEEP IN FRONT
OF THEIR POSITIONS TO CLEAR ENEMY FORCES FROM THE AREA
AND BURY ENEMY DEAD.

14. ON OCTOBER 25 FANK'S 5TH BRIGADE SWEPT THROUGH
THE AREA FIFTEEN KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF KOMPONG CHHNANG AGAINST
LITTLE ENEMY RESISTANCE THEREBY CLEARING THE ENEMY FROM THE
SOUTHERNMOST CUT ALONG ROUTE 5. HOWEVER, WHEN THE
5TH BRIGADE PULLED OUT, THE ENEMY COUNTERATTACKED
AGAINST THE LOCAL TROOPS AND REESTABLISHED CONTROL OF
THE SAME 4 KILOMETER STRETCH OF THIS VITAL ROUTE.
THE FANK OPERATION TO SWEEP THE ENEMY FROM A SECOND
CUT ALONG ROUTE 5 FORTY KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF
KOMPONG CHHNANG MET WITH STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE
EARLIER THIS WEEK BUT AFTER BEING REINFORCED BY UNITS
FROM BATTAMBANG WAS REPORTEDLY MAKING PROGRESS.

15. SIEM REAP REPORTS NUMEROUS ABFS AGAINST ITS
NORTHERN DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. TAKEO NOTES SEVERAL EN-
GAGEMENTS WITH THE ENEMY AS FANK FORCES ATTEMPT TO
EXTEND THEIR DEFENSIVE PERIMETER TO THE SOUTH AND
WEST. GOVERNMENT FORCES AT KOMPONG SOM REPORT SEVERAL
LIGHT ABFS AGAINST UNITS ALONG ROUTE 4 WEST OF
O CHAMNA.

16. DURING THE WEEK ONE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN
PHNOM PENH SUFFERING THREE ABFS ENROUTE WITH NO
SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. TWO CONVOYS FROM PHNOM PENH
SAILED TO KOMPONG CHHNANG. ONE CONVOY FROM KOMPONG
CHHNANG TRAVELLED TO PHNOM PENH WHILE ANOTHER IS
TRAVERSING THE GREAT LAKE TO SIEM REAP.
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Message Attributes

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